This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for enabling access of a plurality of data sources by a single access operation wherein each data source in said plurality of data sources requires a separate driver to access the data source so that there is a plurality of separate drivers, said method comprising:

using an application programming interface (API) for each driver in said plurality of separate drivers, wherein said API is substantially identical for each of said drivers in said plurality of separate drivers; ~~and~~

receiving said single access operation by a merging driver wherein in response to said single access operation, said merging driver accesses each driver in said plurality of separate drivers through said API~~,~~; and

accessing an associated data source in said plurality of data sources by said each driver in response to said merging driver access though said API,

wherein said single access operation enabled access of said plurality of data sources; and

said single access operation is performed for each of said plurality of data sources.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
receiving from a user a selection of each data source to be included in said plurality of data sources.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein one data source in said plurality of data sources is a merging data source.

4.   (Original)   The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
        obtaining an ordered result in response to said
single access operation.

5.   (Previously Presented)   The method of Claim 1 further
comprising:
        accessing said merging driver through a user
interface API.

6.   (Currently Amended)   A computer program product
comprising computer program code for enabling access of a
plurality of data sources by a single access operation wherein
each data source in said plurality of data sources requires a
separate driver to access the data source so that there is a
plurality of separate drivers, said method comprising:
        using an application programming interface (API) for
    each driver in said plurality of separate drivers, wherein
    said API is substantially identical for each of said
    drivers in said plurality of separate drivers; ~~and~~
        receiving said single access by a merging driver
    wherein in response to said single access operation, said
    merging driver accesses said plurality of separate drivers
    through said API~~T~~; and
        accessing an associated data source in said plurality
of data sources by said each driver in response to said
merging driver access though said API,
            wherein said single access operation enabled
        access of said plurality of data sources; and
                said single access operation is performed for
        each of said plurality of data sources.

7.   (Original)   The computer program product of Claim 6
wherein said method further comprises:

receiving from a user a selection of each data source to be included in said plurality of data sources.

8.   (Original)   The computer program product of Claim 7 wherein one data source in said plurality of data sources is a merging data source.

9.   (Original)   The computer program product of Claim 6 wherein said method further comprises:
    obtaining an ordered result in response to said single access operation.

10.   (Previously Presented)   The computer program product of Claim 6 wherein said method further comprises: .
    accessing said merging driver through a user interface API.

11.   (Currently Amended)   A system comprising:
    a plurality of data sources;
    a driver for each data source in said plurality of data sources thereby forming a plurality of drivers wherein each driver has a substantially identical driver application programming interface; and
    a merging driver coupled to each driver in said plurality of drivers through said driver application programming interface <u>wherein said merging driver distributes a single query to each driver in said plurality of drivers so that said single query is directed to each of said plurality of data sources</u>.

12.   (Original)   The system of Claim 11 wherein one data source in said plurality of data sources is a merging data source.

13. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a processor; and

a memory coupled to said processor, and having stored therein computer program instructions, wherein execution of computer program instructions by said processor comprises a method for enabling access of a plurality of data sources by a single access operation wherein each data source in said plurality of data sources requires a separate driver to access the data source so that there is a plurality of separate drivers, said method comprising:

using an application programming interface (API) for each driver in said plurality of separate drivers, wherein said API is substantially identical for each of said drivers in said plurality of separate drivers; ~~and~~

receiving said single access operation by a merging driver wherein in response to said single access operation, said merging driver accesses each driver in said plurality of separate drivers through said API~~,~~; and

accessing an associated data source in said plurality of data sources by said each driver in response to said merging driver access though said API,

wherein said single access operation enabled access of said plurality of data sources; and

said single access operation is performed for each of said plurality of data sources.

14. (Original) The system of Claim 13, said method further comprising:

receiving from a user a selection of each data source to be included in said plurality of data sources.

15.   (Original)   The system of Claim 14 wherein one data source in said plurality of data sources is a merging data source.

16.   (Original)   The system of Claim 13, said method further comprising:

    obtaining an ordered result in response to said single access operation.

17.   (Previously Presented)   The system of Claim 13, said method further comprising:

    accessing said merging driver through a user interface API.